

# AIRISMS

## FROM THE FOUR WINDS.

COLONEL LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU, C.S.I., we learn by cable, has just arrived in Canada, where he has gone to speak on aviation in some of the principal cities of the Dominion, with the object of stimulating interest in aerial matters, and more especially with a view to getting recruits for the R.F.C., both as regards officer-cadets and rank and file. At the conclusion of his mission Lord Montagu will proceed to India to resume his official duties there.

FOR all practical purposes the Air Force Bill passed the House of Lords intact as it came up from the Commons. Amongst minor mention, one amendment moved by the Earl of Crawford, stands out as defining without doubt an essential point in the scheme for one Air Service, contended for from the first by "FLIGHT." The wording of this new clause, which was accepted without opposition, sets out that the officers and airmen of a body of the Air Force acting with any body of His Majesty's military forces on active service, shall be made subject to military law, "and in such case they shall be subject thereto in like manner as if they were officers and airmen attached to the Army." This is a provision precedent as we have repeatedly pointed out, combined with a single uniform, to the smooth working of the single Air Service, and is on a similar footing under which soldiers, while on board ship, were brought within the scope of the Navy Discipline Act. Presumably under the latter, therefore, the necessity for making the Clause also applicable to the Royal Navy does not arise.

ONE of the first duties arising under the Air Force Bill is the selection of the new Air Council. This is already well in hand, and within a few days official announcement may well be made. Staff appointments and confirmations are also under consideration, one of the first to be noted being the appointment of Brigadier-General E. L. Ellington, R.A., to be Deputy Director-General of Military Aeronautics, the post held until recently by Major-General Brancker, who in October was appointed to "a command abroad." General Ellington originally commissioned in the R.A. in 1897, is one of the young progressive school, he being still under forty.

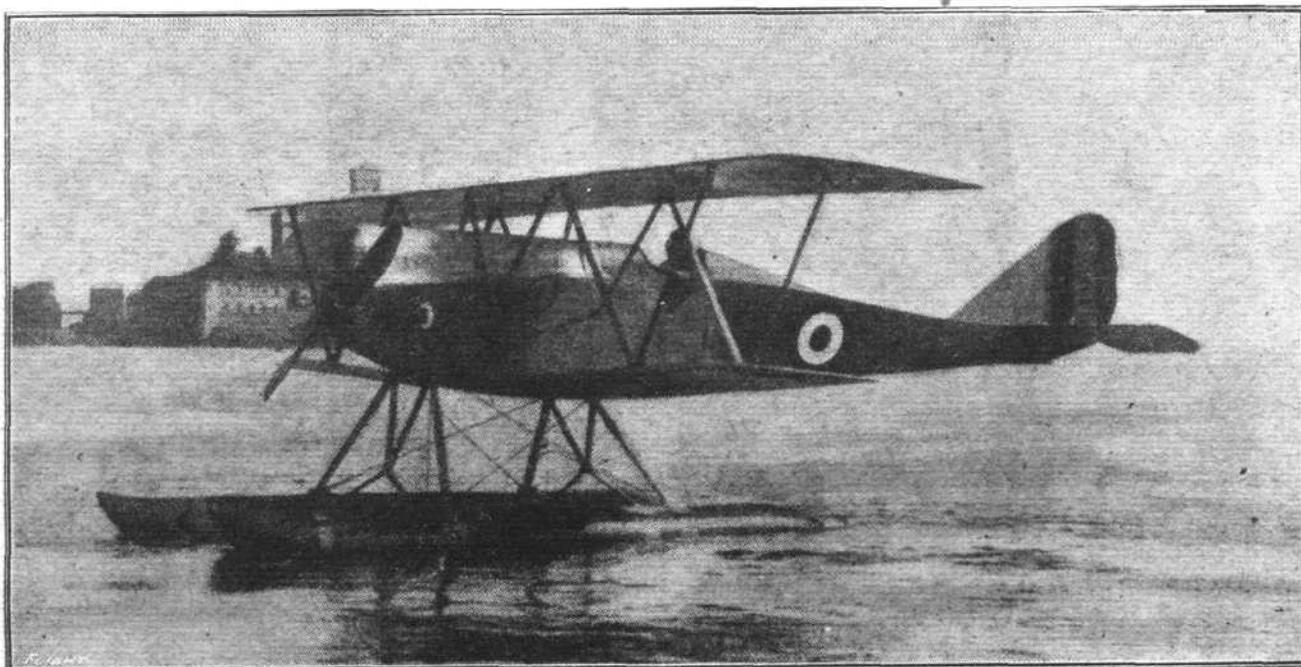
FRIDAY this week should be of more than passing interest to the aviation world. On that day the Prime Minister, at the invitation of the Benchers of Gray's Inn, will probably

help to remove in his usual frank way, any phantom snags and sunken rocks which have been suggested as likely to make the smooth passage of the new organisation a hazardous experiment. There are so many misconceptions upon the details of the scheme, that authoritative enlightenment by Mr. Lloyd George, and the Air Minister, Lord Rothermere, who will also be present at Gray's Inn Hall, should go far to relieve the doubts of those who may have some misgivings upon the point.

OBVIOUSLY the Air-Raid Compensation Committee must have many a complex claim to investigate, now the Government have adopted, as from September 1st last, the principle of compensating for air-raid damage up to £500 per head, without having the further burden of retrospective claims to tackle. At the same time there must be many a case involving a more or less minor amount of compensation which it would be almost brutal to ignore, and therefore the Chancellor of the Exchequer is to be congratulated upon the Government's decision to put forward proposals which will enable adequate grants to be made in cases in which persons of comparatively small means are suffering substantial hardship, whatever may have been the date of the raid. We hope the interpretation of these powers will err on the generous side, rather than otherwise.

UNITED STATES ESTIMATES go still a step further in rendering expressions in millions and tens of millions a matter of no special concern. Still, £2,700,000,000 is a tidyish item to distribute in detail, even in wartime. What the United States Government thinks of the Aerial Arm is again emphasised, as no less a total than 307,000,000 sterling—not dollars—is ear-marked for the Army and Navy together. Of this £227,200,000 goes to the Army, to include the Signal Service, which not inappropriately is linked up with aviation, and the Navy takes £800,000. The Army item includes the original £128,000,000 allocated for the creation of the United States air fleet.

ABOUT time something were done to "standardise" air-raid warning lights in the Metropolitan District, and for the matter of that the country through. The absurdity and danger of the present haphazard Xmas tree methods would be ludicrous, were it not for the possible tragedies which may lurk behind the varied systems. We welcome therefore the step taken by the Southwark Borough Council who are asking



Courtesy "L'Aérophile."

The seaplane type tractor biplane, constructed by the Italian Società Gio Ansaldo.